

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 PM-03

H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 /081 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0759

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, GR, TU, GW, UK, FR, WB

SUBJECT: BERLIN TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS

REF: USBERLIN 2332, DEC 23, 1974 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ALLIED CARRIERS DOUBT THEIR ABILITY TO
CONTINUE WORKER FLIGHTS IF BERLIN SENAT FAILS TO RENEW
SUBSIDY FOR INTERMEDIATE LANDINGS IN FRG AND IF ROYALTY
PAYMENTS TO THY RESUMED. SENAT
OFFICIAL SAID MATTER WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED BY NEW
BERLIN GOVT. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED APRIL 5 THAT BERLIN SENAT
CANCELLED ITS SUBSIDY PAYMENTS TO ALLIED CARRIERS
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(PRINCIPALLY BRITISH) OF TURKISH WORKERS WITH RETROACTIVE

EFFECT TO JAN 1, 1975. SUBSIDY COVERS DM 3000-5000 COSTS OF EACH INTERMEDIATE LANDING MADE IN FRG BY ALLIED CARRIERS WHO HAVE BEEN UNABLE FLY NON-STOP TO TURKEY DUE TO REFUSAL BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES GRANT OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION FOR BERLIN-ORIGIN FLIGHTS. BULGARIAN AIRWAY HAS BEEN ONLY ROUTE AVAILABLE FOR WEST BERLIN-TURKEY FLIGHTS SINCE MUTUALLY RETALIATORY GREEK-TURKISH CLOSURES OF OTHER WESTERN APPROACHES TO TURKEY IN SUMMER OF 1974.

3. APRIL 6 PRESS REPORTED THAT SENAT'S AVIATION SPECIALIST (BENTZIEN) EXPLAINED SUBSIDY PAYMENTS WERE INTENDED AS TEMPORARY COMPENSATION OF ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY AIRLINES AND THAT DM 700,000 ALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE HAD RUN OUT. SPECIALIST CLAIMED THAT SINCE JAN 1, 1975 ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES OF INTERMEDIATE LANDING HAD BEEN OFFSET BY SAVINGS TO ALLIED CARRIERS RESULTING FROM TERMINATION ON JAN 1 OF ROYALTY PAYMENTS BY CARRIERS TO THY OF DM 58 PER PASSENGER SEAT. TERMINATION RESULTED FROM LAPSE OF ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF INTER-AIRLINE PROTOCOL ON TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS (REFTEL).

4. SPOKESMAN FOR BRITISH CARRIERS (DAN-AIR AND LAKER) EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS JUSTIFICATION FOR RETROACTIVE TERMINATION OF SUBSIDY. SPOKESMAN SAID LAPSE OF ROYALTY PAYMENTS MERELY ENABLED TICKET PRICE FOR WEST BERLIN ORIGIN FLIGHTS TO BE LOWERED TO SAME GENERAL LEVEL (DM 370-390) AS SCHOENEFELD-ORIGIN THY FLIGHTS, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ALLIED CARRIERS WOULD REMAIN COMPETITIVE OVER LONG TERM IF SUBSIDY NOT RENEWED AND IF THY STOOD BY PREVIOUS POSITION THAT CONCLUSION OF NEW PROTOCOL WOULD BE CONDITIONED ON RETROACTIVE PAYMENT OF ROYALTY.

5. PANAM REP ADVISED MISSION THAT IT WOULD JOIN DAN-AIR AND LAKER IN TALKS WITH THY IN LONDON NEXT WEEK. PANAM HAS NOT CARRIED TURKISH WORKERS TO TURKEY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BUT REMAINS INTERESTED IN SHARING TRAFFIC IF ACCEPTABLE PROTOCOL RESULTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM LONDON TALKS.

6. BRITISH MISSION APRIL 7 TOLD BENTZIEN THAT FAILURE TO RENEW SUBSIDY WOULD CREATE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT TURKISH WORKER TRAFFIC WOULD BE FORFEITED TO GDR'S SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY, SENAT CHANCELLERY

OFFICIAL TOLD ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS APRIL 8 THAT
PRESS STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SENAT WERE NOT
AUTHORIZED, THAT RENEWAL OF SUBSIDY NOT RULED OUT,
AND THAT NEW BERLIN GOVT WOULD TAKE UP MATTER AFTER
HOUSE OF REPS CONVENES APRIL 24.

8. COMMENT: BRITISH SEEM INCLINED TO LET GERMANS
FOOT BILL, BUT THIS APPROACH MAY LEAD TO DEBATE IN
HOUSE AND THEREBY BRING ABOUT RENEWED GERMAN
PRESSURE FOR POLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM TURKISH
WORKER FLIGHTS. GEORGE

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